

**Simsbury Public Library – Board of Trustees
Town of Simsbury, Connecticut
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 7, 2022 at 7 P.M.
Simsbury Public Library – Weatogue Room and Zoom**

Present: Lisa Karim, Director of Simsbury Public Library; Kathleen Miller, Chair of the Library Board of Trustees; Polly Rice, Vice Chair of the Library Board of Trustees; Greg Golinski, President of the Friends of the Library; Mary Glassman, Linda Johnson, Holly McGrath, Susan Rubenstein, and Mary Richardson, Teen Services Librarian of Simsbury Public Library.

Absent: Tolly Gibbs

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Rice called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Motion: Ms. McGrath made a motion to approve the move of Library Material Challenge to after the Approval of Minutes. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 18, 2022

Motion: Ms. Johnson made a motion to accept the minutes for the January 18, 2022 meeting as recorded. Ms. McGrath seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

LIBRARY MATERIAL CHALLENGE

Ms. Karim stated that she sent a Request Response to the person who wrote a Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials for the book *Gender Queer*.

Ms. Johnson stated that she could understand how residents could be hesitant about wanting a book that is very detailed and graphic about gender identity, sexuality, and coming of age experiences available for youth at the Library.

Ms. Richardson responded that the Library does not want LGBTQIA youth to feel like their stories do not matter and by removing this book it could create that. This demographic is already at an increased risk of suicide because they feel like no one sees them. The Library wants to support their voice. This book is also for people who want to learn about experiences of those who are non-binary. She shared a quote from author BB Alston, "Book Banning: When you erase the history/experience of one kid to "protect" another, what you're also saying is that there is one type of kid worth protecting."

Ms. Glassman stated that it would be helpful for the residents to understand the professional process that goes into making purchases for the Library collection.

Ms. Karim responded that whenever anyone in the Library is making material purchases, they look at reviews from professional sources such as *School Library Journal*, *Publisher's Weekly*, *Kirkus*, the *New York Times*, etc. The Library is doing a diversity audit to make sure that all visitors see themselves in the collection and that is inclusive.

Ms. Richardson commented that *Gender Queer* is on the Best Graphic Novels for 2020 for Young Adults of the American Library Association. Sometimes librarians will see something on a bestsellers list and award lists and make a purchase.

Ms. Rice inquired what would be the next step in the process.

Ms. Karim responded that if the person who wrote the Reconsideration Request is unhappy with her Request Response they can communicate with the Library Board of Trustees and the Town Manager would likely be involved.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

No public audience spoke.

COMMUNICATIONS

No communications were reported.

FRIENDS REPORT

Mr. Golinski reported that the next meeting might be on Zoom. He also stated that author Martha Hall Kelly, will have a virtual event tomorrow night for the Library.

CHAIR REPORT

No report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Karim reported that Library has done some hiring. Katie Crawford is the new Children's Library Services Assistant. Cyn Thomas is the new Adult Services Librarian. The Business and Career Center Coordinator position is still vacant and has been republicized on ALA and will be republicized throughout Connecticut and the local states.

She stated that a Capstone student from Simsbury High School is doing tech support at the Library and is developing program ideas using the equipment in the Innovator's Workshop. This will be the Library's pilot into the Capstone world, as they anticipate there will be more Capstone students approaching them.

Ms. Karim brought attention to how there are more book challenges happening all over the nation and the Library would like to do a Banned Book display. This display is normally done in September during Banned Book Week, but because of everything that is going on this would be a good opportunity to educate people.

She stated that the Town has a committee to discuss ARPA funds and how they will be used. There has been discussion about getting book lockers for Tariffville and hiring an intern in the summer to take the book bike to elementary schools one day a week.

BUDGET

Ms. Karim reported there has been a change for the total percentage to 3.3% because there was an error in calculating utilities.

She stated that a part of the budget process will be truing up the number of hours the part time staff is actually working as opposed to how many hours they are budgeted to work.

The Capital Improvement Project, being the Business and Career Center Co-Working Space Project, is getting pushed out another year because of Covid-19 and the vacancy of the Business and Career Center Coordinator position.

The Technology Replacement Plan is moving forward, and they have also budgeted for a 5% increase in the Database budget, which should offset the cost of some of the increase in material purchase costs.

Ms. Karim also said that she sent out the January Finance Report and they are running a little behind in spending because of several job vacancies.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Ms. Karim stated that the Strategic Plan will be delivered to the Library staff at their February 24th meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not needed.

Ms. Glassman made a motion to adjourn. Ms. McGrath seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:24 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Blaze
Commission Clerk